5:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1



647 staff. Public Relations services were somewhat curtailed by the withdrawal of B.I.S.M.E. services in the supply of periodicals and films, and the fact that much of the equipment used throughout the war years had become unserviceable. The most important activities of the Information Office were, however, maintained throughout the year.

*Newspapers*

204 The *Aden Observer*, an eight-page English newspaper, which succeeded the *Aden Argus*, was published weekly and sold at two annas a copy, with a circulation of 1,000 copies a week. The paper ceased publication at the end of the year.

An Arabic newspaper *Al Akhbar al Adaniya* was also published each week and 1,000–1,500 copies were distributed free in the Colony and Protectorates.

*Reading Rooms*

368 Six Reading Rooms were maintained throughout the year at Tawahi, Crater and Sheikh Othman in the Colony; and at Lahej, Mukalla and Seiyun in the Protectorates.

Two others, at Shibam and Gheil Ba Wazir in the Eastern Protectorate, were closed towards the end of the year, as it was considered that they were too remote from supervision and the regular supply of literature to be well run. In addition, reading material has been despatched to Perim and Kamaran Islands and to Red Sea Lighthouses whenever available.

The Reading Rooms are supplied with periodicals, posters and photographs, which are changed each week; the Reading Rooms in the Colony and Western Protectorate also have radios. As mentioned above, the volume of periodicals has been reduced, although a certain number are still distributed both for sale and for use in Reading Rooms.

*Cinema*

647 The Information Office has two 16-mm. projectors in the Colony.
546 In the absence of equipment on order from the United Kingdom, it was difficult to give regular or reliable cinema shows, but every effort was made to revive this activity which had been in abeyance since 1945. The projectors were overhauled during the latter part of the year, and brought into use for several public shows.

English newsreels were received each week from England, and distributed at low rental to local cinemas.

## Chapter 4 :/ Weights and Measures

80 Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden



PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

Criticism of the Information Department, which had been persistent but mild while the cost fell on His Majesty's Government, was intensified when, in accordance with imperial policy, the cost of Colony services was transferred to Colony funds, and an investigation into the activities of the Department was made by a special committee during 1948. In accordance with their recommendation the Governor set up an Advisory Committee for the Department on which unofficial opinion was well represented, and the Department was allowed to continue for a further year. The policy for the future is still under consideration. But in the meantime, such steps as were possible were taken to reduce unprofitable activities and concentrate available resources on approved services. The local newspaper run by Government was discontinued, though the question of giving assistance to some newspaper is still under consideration. The reading rooms in the Colony were closed.

On the other hand, provision for mobile cinemas was increased from one to three. A public address system was installed throughout the Fortress, is being extended to Sheikh Othman, and was used for daily announcements of public interest.

Plans are under consideration for a regular broadcasting service, to serve both the Colony and the Protectorate, and if this comes into operation, the Arabic news will also be put over the public loudspeaker.

The Information Officer inaugurated a series of weekly pamphlets giving information, in English and Arabic, regarding Government intentions and achievements, and explanations in simple language of laws and regulations which were brought into force.

The routine activities of the Information Department, including the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

## Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers are published in the Colony:

*Reuters Bulletin* (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden, P. & O. House, Steamer Point, Aden.

*Fatat-el-Jazirah* (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali Luqman, Crater, Aden.

8:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MM1



## SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF

The services and activities usually associated with a Welfare Department are, in the main, not yet in existence in Aden. Labour and social welfare are grouped in one department staffed by a European Labour and Welfare Officer and a trained Arab assistant. There is an increasing number of voluntary organisations which carry out excellent welfare work, and the main object up to the present has been to encourage these. The aim has been twofold: (a) to organise the considerable flow of charity in order that the maximum benefit can be obtained, and (b) to create a band of voluntary workers in social welfare. During 1952 the sum of £10,000 was donated by the public to Children's Welfare, the Society for the Blind, and the Association of Boys' Clubs.

The local voluntary societies, excluding private charities and church missions, are :

Aden Boy Scouts Association.
Aden Girl Guides Association.
St. John Ambulance Association.
Aden Women's Voluntary Services.
Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.
Aden Women's Club.
Government Guards' Family Association.
Aden Society for the Blind.
Children's Institute Standing Committee.
Association of Boys' Clubs.
Aden Protectorate Levies Wives' Club.
Aden Sports Association.
Aden Ladies Child Welfare Committee.
King Edward VII Dispensary.
Aden Central Poor Relief Committee.

The Social Welfare Advisory Council has met 13 times since its inception in August, 1950.

In April, 1952, the film and cinema service provided by the former Public Relations and Information Office were taken over by the Labour and Welfare Department. A small van was purchased and at least 30 shows a month were given by the mobile 16 mm. projector. The programmes consist of British news and films of educational and general interest. Small clubs, open spaces, and hospital wards form the theatres.

The two main events to report are a Children's Welfare Week (26th February to 3rd March, 1952) and the opening of the Reilly Centre for the Blind (23rd October, 1952). Also worthy of special mention was the attendance of two Aden Scouters, both locally born Arabs, at the world Indaba held at Gilwell Park near London.

Children's Welfare Week was an outstandingly successful effort by voluntary workers. Children and adults of various communities took part—Arab, European, Indian and Somali. The week was organised by the Children's Institute Standing Committee, a body of voluntary

B.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MMI



United States of America and Canada. In 1951 there were 1,460 telephones in use and in 1952 there were 1,496.

The telephone service cannot cope with the demands made upon it and plans to extend it were completed in 1951. It is hoped that in 1954 it will be possible to meet all demands.

There is no internal telegraph system conducted by Government. External cable telegraphic communication is provided by Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd., and they also operate various services to places including Perim Island, Kamaran, Mukalla and Sai'un.

There were 1,022 radio receiving licences issued in 1951 and 1,044 in 1952.

# Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting and Information Services

## PRESS

The following are the more important periodicals published in Aden:

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|---|---|
| Official Government Gazette | English Weekly |
| Reuters Bulletin | English Daily (Roneoed) for subscribers only. |
| Fatat Al Jazirah | Arabic Weekly |
| Al Nahda | Arabic Weekly |
| Akhbar Al Janoob | Arabic Weekly |
| Al Fadhool | Arabic Weekly |

During 1951-52 a sum of £31,965 was provided to set up a Government printing press. The building of the premises was begun in November, 1951, but the machinery and equipment had not been entirely installed by the end of 1952.

## BROADCASTING

There is no local broadcasting system in the Colony. Reasonably good reception, however, is possible throughout the year from the B.B.C. and from stations in the Middle East which broadcast regular programmes in English and Arabic.

Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd. have a station which can be used on request.

## INFORMATION SERVICES

In March, 1952, the Public Relations and Information Office was closed down and most of its activities absorbed into other Government departments, a move undertaken in the interests of economy and in the belief that increased efficiency and service to the public would result.

The main activities of the Office prior to March, 1952, were the publication of bulletins in English and Arabic on departmental activities and special topics of interest, the arrangement of occasional press conferences with departmental heads, and the regular distribu-

G.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1



647 tion of newsreels to commercial cinemas and the supply of periodicals
204 and official pictorial matter to institutions and interested persons in the
546 Colony and Protectorate. In addition, regular showings were given to the public and to clubs of news and documentary films in English and Arabic, an activity later brought within the sphere of the Labour and Welfare Department.

368 Three public reading rooms were maintained in the Protectorate and have continued to be well patronised.

# Chapter 13 : General

## ARCHAEOLOGY

172 In 1950 and 1951 the American Foundation for the Study of Man carried out two short seasons of excavation in Beihan under the archaeological supervision of Professor W. F. Albright. The main site examined, that of Hagr Kohlan, was already known from inscriptions, to be the ruins of Timna, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Qataban. The area of the walled city covered some 70 acres and excavation revealed a number of very substantial and well constructed stone buildings. The city appeared to have been totally destroyed by fire about the end of the 1st Century B.C. A section cut in a subsidiary mound produced a long series of pottery types thought to show more or less continuous occupation from the 13th Century B.C. down to the Middle Ages. A large number of inscriptions found in both sites and elsewhere in Wadi Beihan are in course of being published by Dr. A. Jamme of Louvain.

## ARCHIVAL SURVEY

217 In October, 1952, Dr. A. Toussaint, the Chief Archivist to the Government of Mauritius, arrived to conduct a preliminary survey of Government archives and records. Though the survey was not complete at the end of the year it was clear that substantial progress in the method of preserving and cataloguing the records of the Colony would call for greatly improved storage facilities and expert staff.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

369 Adult education in Aden has not reached a stage where cultural activities flourish spontaneously; nor, since the closing down of the British Council, is there any cultural centre outside the Department of Education. The nearest approach to such a centre and in itself a legacy of the British Council is the Lake Library.

This library has been built up over a period of twelve years and now contains 10,000 volumes; these include Arabic and Urdu books and a reference library. The reading room, which is provided with a wide selection of periodicals and is comfortably furnished, is extremely popular in the evening. The library has a large and growing membership of Europeans who are quick to appreciate its worth. The Arab